

not the divine become more wonderful and mysterious and the human more holy? The divine child encircled by the arms of the human mother is a picture upon which men may well look with uncovered heads; for it is the parable of the deepest and most beautiful of all the truths about this divinely-ordered life of ours. The human child who seeks the ultimate truth and the inward peace must say with St. Augustine, "Thou hast made me for thyself, and I am restless till I rest in thee;" and in the heart of the divine Father must there not be an answering cry, "I have made thee for myself, and I cannot rest until thou rest in me?"

#### Christmas Without Children

What would Christmas be without the children?

This of late has been my constant thought,  
As on tiny hoods and scarfs and mittens  
Ceaselessly my willing fingers wrought.

What would Christmas be, again I ask you,  
Should you miss that loving, warm embrace,  
When a white-robed figure breaks your slumbers,  
Shouting "Merry Christmas" in your face?

Let us, then, bring smiles to their dear faces;  
Let us see their laps with treasures piled;  
Let us think of One who, loving others,  
Was on earth and dwelt a little child.

—Isabelle H. Fitz, in *Every Other Sunday*

#### A Warm Heart

Sunday School Times.

A warm heart is more attractive than a large brain. There are men who give more pleasure in a cordial handshake than most men can give in a learned talk about literature or philosophy. Men are influenced thro their emotions more easily, and oftener, than by their logical faculty. A strong character has added power when it shows a loving spirit. Even a weak character can win favor and do good when it evidences an affectionate nature. A good city missionary said of a man whom he valued as a helper, 'He isn't much of a man if you measure him some ways, but he's worth a hundred dollars a year as kindling-wood in a prayer-meeting.' The world needs warming in order to have all in it do their best work. For this use, a handful of kindling-wood on the social hearth is better than a wagon-load of ice. Which are you in the habit of furnishing?

#### Christmas Presents for the Poor

In your Christmas purchasing do not be tempted to forget those who, because of their poverty, are unable to do any shopping either for themselves or for others, advises Frances E. Lanigan, in the December *Ladies' Home Journal*. Let your presents to them be of a substantial character—a ton of coal, some warm clothing, some money, a box of groceries, or a basket of Christmas marketing, topped with a bunch of holly. And to the little children in whose homes Christmas is little more than a name, send some of the many bright, new tin toys which are so inexpensive; some candy, some fruit, bright red woolen mittens and Tam o' Shanters, and, if you can afford it, some good stout shoes and warm stockings. A piece of bright-colored

plaid will make a pretty gift for the little girl who has never, perhaps, had a new dress in her life. Accompany your Christmas presents with some cheery Christmas greetings and some Christmas greens. Be very sure that this thoughtfulness will bring its own reward, and that in the years to come the memory of the Christmas when you gave most and received least will be the happiest of all memories to you.

#### The Mother of the Christmas Babe

When God would give the world a great man—a man of rare spirit and transcendent power, a man with a lofty mission—he first prepares a woman to be his mother. Whenever in history we come upon such a man, we instinctively begin to ask about the character of her on whose bosom he nestled in infancy and at whose knee he learned his life's first lessons. We are sure of finding here the secret of the man's greatness. When the time drew nigh for the incarnation of the Son of God, we may be sure that into the soul of the woman who should be his mother, who should impart her own life to him, who should teach him his first lessons and prepare him for his holy mission, God put the loveliest and the best qualities that ever were lodged in any woman's life.

We need not accept the teaching that exalts the mother of Jesus to a place beside or above her divine Son. We need have no sympathy whatever with the dogma that ascribes worship to the Virgin Mary, and teaches that the Son on his throne must be approached by mortals through his more merciful, more gentle-hearted mother. But we need not let these errors concerning Mary obscure the real blessedness of her character. We remember the angel's greeting, "Blessed art thou among women." Hers surely was the highest honor ever conferred upon any woman.

"Say of me as the heavenly said, 'Thou art The blessedest of women!'—blessedest,  
Not holiest, not noblest,—no high name,  
Whose height misplaced may pierce me like a shame,  
When I sit meek in heaven!"

We know how other men, men of genius, rarely ever have failed to give to their mothers the honor of whatever of greatness or worth they had attained. But somehow we shrink from saying that Jesus was influenced by his mother as other good men have been; that he got from her much of the beauty and the power of his life. We are apt to fancy that his mother was not to him what mothers ordinarily are to their children; that he did not need mothering as other children do; that by reason of his deity indwelling, his character unfolded from within, without the aid of home teaching and training, and the other educational influences which do so much in shaping the character of children in common homes.

But there is no Scriptural ground for this feeling. The humanity of Jesus was just like our humanity. He came into the world just as feeble and as untaught as any other child that ever was born. No mother was

ever more to her infant than Mary was to Jesus. She taught him all his first lessons. She gave him his first thoughts about God, and from her lips he learned the first lisps of prayer. Jewish mothers cared very tenderly for their children. They taught them with unwearying patience the words of God. One of the rabbis said, "God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers."

#### Sisters' Society C. E.

##### WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIALS TO SUCCESS IN THE S. S. C. E. WORK?

IDA SIMMONDS

The true success of any organization is made manifest only by the consecration of its members individually. It is not number that is required, but I must have power with God that I may have power with man. All work which leads to true success is obtained only by the united efforts of its consecrated members. Whether it be the church, the Sunday school, the Young People's society, the Mission, or the Sisters' Society of Christian Endeavor.

The church accomplishing the most good in every possible way is known by the work done thro its different organizations. "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Give us healthy societies, those well organized with consecrated members, (for all should be such) cannot help but succeed. When the church is as loyal as secret societies, then will every member be present in all services, then, can all receive the blessing. I beg of you not to wait for any week of prayer, for any series of special service, for any one or any thing. Awake out of sleep, take hold of facts, they have a great power to arouse. Death forever fixes sin. Without Christ sinners are lost. Neglect of doing good is sin. For ye are God's messengers to some one to be saved to a noble and useful Christian life.

The world would look upon number and finance alone as success. Life is not all sunshine is the stern teaching of experience; would it were so, might be the response from many hearts. Life's mission is not yet fulfilled. Today is the day of labor, yesterday is past.

In our system the sun, the earth, and every other planet has its own place, its pathway, its work to do, and end to accomplish; all combine in sweet and ceaseless harmony with a complete and perfect system. The human form presents us with an adaption for varied and extensive utility when it is perfect in all its parts, no member or organ wanting, every one in its appropriate place. All this may serve as an illustration, the relation God has wisely and benevolently assigned to each person. And it is only for each one to find his or her place, and to cheerfully engage with the appropriate work of that place. Then will each member contribute in a natural way to the strength and efficiency of the other.

Will we begin at the springs which form the river's source? As it flows on and on,